

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

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R 151215Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7902

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T JIDDA 4075

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - R E F . B A D D E D

BEIRUT PLS PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, SA

SUBJECT: KING FAISAL'S VIEWS ON THE "NEW ISRAELI FACTS"

REF JIDDA 3959; B. TEL AVIV 3874

SUMMARY: KING FAISAL CALLED THE AMBASSADOR JULY 14 TO
PROTEST RECENT ISRAELI STATEMENTS WHICH IMPLIED
THAT THEY DID NOT INTEND TO WITHDRAW FROM THE OCCUPIED
ARAB LANDS. HE ASKS FOR A CLEAR STATEMENT OF AMERICAN
POLICY ON THE ISRAELI CREATION OF "NEW FACTS" AND PRE-
DICTS A REVERSAL OF THE PRESENT STRONGLY PRO-AMERICAN
CURRENTS IF ISRAEL IS ALLOWED TO STRENGTHEN ITS POSI-

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TION IN THE OCCUPIED LANDS. END SUMMARY.

1. AS EXPECTED, THE KING RAISED WITH ME TODAY (JULY 14) RECENT ISRAELI STATEMENTS ON ITS CONTINUED OCCUPATION OF ARAB LANDS. HE SAID THE ISRAELI POSITION ON JERUSALEM WAS CLEARLY "IMPOSSIBLE," THERE COULD BE NO PEACE UNTIL ARAB JERUSALEM WAS RETURNED TO ARAB HANDS. HE SAID HE WAS SURE PRESIDENT NIXON AND SECRETARY KISSINGER KNEW THIS; HE HAS SAID IT OFTEN ENOUGH.

2. ON THE STATEMENT THAT THE ISRAELIS WOULD "NEVER" WITHDRAW FROM THE JORDAN RIVER, I DREW ON REF B AND SAID THIS POSITION WAS TAKEN BY SOME OF THE MINORITY PARTIES BUT IT WAS NOT THE POSITION OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. KING FAISAL'S FIGURES ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENTS IN THE ARAB LANDS WERE, ACCORDING TO OUR LATEST INFORMATION, ALSO CONSIDERABLY EXAGGERATED.

3. THE KING SAID HE APPRECIATED THIS CLARIFICATION BUT WHAT HE WANTED TO KNOW WAS THE USG POSITION ON THE "NEW FACTS" ISRAEL IS TRYING TO CREATE. HAD WE, FOR EXAMPLE, PROTESTED THE SETTLEMENTS TO THE ISRAELIS? WHAT HAD WE SAID AND WHAT WERE WE GOING TO SAY ABOUT THE SUBJECT PUBLICLY? WHAT DID WE INTEND TO DO PRIVATELY TO INHIBIT THE ISRAELIS FROM CARRYING OUT THESE PROJECTS?

4. HE SAID HE KNEW FROM PRESIDENT ASAD THAT DR. KISSINGER WAS SHOCKED WHEN HE LEARNED THAT ISRAEL, WHILE CLAIMING ONLY TO WANT TO PROTECT ITS CITIZENS, HAD BUILT SETTLEMENTS CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THE SYRIAN GUNS ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. THESE CURRENT ISRAELI ACTIONS SEEMED TO THE KING TO BE EVEN MORE PROVOCATIVE THAN THE EARLIER SETTLEMENTS. IF THE ISRAELIS IMPLEMENT THEM, HE SAID, IT WOULD BE A CLEAR SIGN FOR THE ARABS, THE AMERICANS, AND THE WORLD THAT ISRAEL NEVER INTENDED TO WITHDRAW AND EVERYONE WOULD HAVE TO ACT ACCORDING TO HIS OWN INTEREST.

5. HE SAID THAT IN ALL HIS MEETINGS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AND THE PRESIDENT THEY HAD TALKED OF THE
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"FIRST STEPS" TOWARD A JUST PEACE. AND THIS, HE SAID, COULD ONLY MEAN COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ARAB LANDS OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL SINCE '67.

6. HE SAID THAT SAUDI ARABIA WAS UNDER CONSTANT ATTACK FROM THE ARAB RADICALS FOR ITS NEW ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE U.S., AND FOR ITS ENDURING CLOSE POLITICAL TIES TO US. THE RADICAL TAUNTS WERE

INCREASINGLY CONCENTRATED ON THE IMPROBABILITY THAT THE U.S. WOULD EVEN TRY TO MOVE THE ISRAELIS BACK FROM THEIR CONQUESTS. HE REFERRED TO A PARTICULARLY VIRULENT ATTACK ON SAUDI ARABIA BY RADIO BAGHDAD ON JULY 12.

7. THE KING SAID THAT HE PRAYED THE U.S. WOULD NOT RETURN TO ITS OLD POSITION OF SUPINE SUBSERVIENCE TO ISRAEL. THE NEW STRONG U.S. POSITION IN THE ARAB WORLD WOULD BE DESTROYED; AMERICAN FRIENDS IN THE AREA WOULD BE RUINED AND THE ONLY ONES TO PROFIT WOULD BE THE COMMUNISTS. THEY ARE ALREADY TELLING ALL ARABS THAT THE U.S. IS A FALSE FRIEND, THAT IT HAS RAISED FALSE HOPES, CURRIED THEIR FAVOR AND WON A FEW NEW SUPPORTERS. BUT THE ARABS WOULD SOON SEE THAT WHEN DIFFICULT DECISIONS MUST BE TAKEN, THE U.S. WOULD GIVE ISRAEL WHATEVER SUPPORT IT DESIRES.

8. COMMENT: THE KING DID NOT SEEM PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE EXPLANATIONS OR RATIONALIZATIONS I WAS ABLE TO GIVE HIM. HE WILL NEED SOME MESSAGE OR PREFERABLY SOME PUBLIC U.S. STATEMENT THAT THE U.S. IS STILL LOOKING FOR A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE IN THE AREA AND THAT THE "NEW FACTS" THE ISRAELIS ARE TRYING TO CREATE WILL HAVE TO BE UNDONE IF THEY CONFLICT WITH THIS GOAL.
AKINS

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